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**MEDIA NOTE**

**Condemnation of Pardon of Mubarak Mustafa**

The United States strongly condemns the Sudanese government's decision to grant a presidential pardon to Mubarak Mustafa, who was convicted as an accomplice in the escape from jail of four men sentenced to death over the 2008 murders of USAID employees John Granville and Abdelrahman Abbas Rahama.

Sudanese courts tried and convicted five men in connection with the murders in 2009. One was convicted on lesser charges and served a lesser penalty. The other four, including Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhassan Haj Hamad and Mohamed Makawi Ibrahim, were convicted of murder and sentenced to death. On June 10, 2010, Makawi, Abdelbasit, and the other two individuals sentenced to death for the murders, escaped from a prison in Khartoum. Mubarak Mustafa was convicted of assisting the men to escape.

One of the escaped individuals was reportedly killed in Somalia in 2011 and the other was recaptured and is currently incarcerated in Khartoum. The U.S. Department of State's Rewards for Justice program has authorized rewards of up to \$5 million each for information leading to the capture of two men still at-large, Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhasan Haj Hamad and Mohamed Makawi Ibrahim Mohamed. On January 8, 2013, the U.S. Department of State also designated Abdelbasit Alhaj Alhassan Haj Hamad and Mohamed Makawi Ibrahim Mohamed under Executive Order 13224, which targets terrorists and those providing support to terrorists or acts of terrorism.

The pardoning of Mustafa runs counter to previous assurances by the Government of Sudan to hold accountable all those involved in the murder of Granville and Rahama or those responsible in any way. In the interest of justice, we urge the Government of Sudan to immediately rescind the pardon and return Mustafa to prison to serve out his term. Failure to retract this pardon is contrary to the commitment of both the United States and Sudan to combat terrorism and hold accountable those responsible for terrorist acts.